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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

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SUBJECT : KHIMGAS Institute, Leningrad

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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the Gulf of Finland, about 40 km north of Leningrad. Shortly after 25X1A
arrival Admiral Buchanov, who seemed to be in charge of our activities,
divided the specialists into three main study groups and asked each to
make detailed reports on its specialty. In addition to

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following people worked in it: Jefimov, a Navy Captain Korvetten Kapitaen who was the Soviet group leader; Hermann Kaufmann, a Doctor of Chemistry who was the German group leader; Franz Pohl, Doctor of Chemistry and a specialist on synthetic oils; William Lorenz, senior foreman whose specialty was hydrogenation at 700 atmospheres; Walter Scholz, Dipl Ing and a specialist on fuel pressure regulators. Scholz has a German patent on such instruments.

2. At the end of May 1947 a reorganization took place. The various study groups were moved into laboratories where they could do practical work. The Fuel and Oil Group was attached to the Petroleum Ministry and assigned work in the KHIMGAS Institute. All the specialists, except those sent to Oranienbaum, continued to live in Sestroretsk but they worked in Leningrad. We all went to town in a bus. [REDACTED] while the others rode on to the station and from there took a train to Leningrad-Farforipost which is on the main line to Moscow.

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3. [REDACTED] times in order to help in the calibration of special measuring instruments, such as density recorders and oxygen measuring instruments. In addition I learned some things [REDACTED] from Dr Kaufmann, the 25X1A German group leader, who lived near me in Sestroretsk. On the basis of my own observations and Dr Kaufmann's information, I can say the fol-

[REDACTED]

- (a) Schnittkin was the Soviet Director of the Institute.
- (b) Lewin was the Technical Assistant. He had studied in Germany and belonged to the Communist party.
- (c) The German personnel were Kaufmann, Pohl and Lorenz; that is, all those who had been in the Fuel and Oil Group, except Scholz who was sent to Oranienbaum.

4. The production of synthetic oil from low grade coal Braunkohle is a well-known process in Germany. In the Soviet Zone of Germany there were four important plants which specialized in this operation, all working under BRABAG Braunkohle-Benzin AG. These were:

- (a) Magdeburg, which was wholly dismantled;
- (b) Schwarzheide (near Senftenberg) which used the Fisher-Tropsch process;
- (c) Zeitz;
- (d) Boehlen.

The first two plants used low pressure hydrogenation; Boehlen and Zeitz used high pressure (700 atmospheres). Boehlen was the central plant for training Soviet scientific and mechanical personnel. The two Soviet specialists working at KHIMGAS had been partially trained at Boehlen. A pilot plant for high pressure hydrogenation existed at Leuna but was completely destroyed during the war. In 1946-47 this pilot plant was rebuilt in Leuna and then moved to Leningrad where it was again set up under the direction of the German specialists Kaufmann, Pohl and Lorenz.

5. The establishment of high pressure equipment caused great difficulties. Not a single mechanic trained for high pressure apparatus was available. It took about two years to get the installation going while the same work could have been done in about three months at Leuna. The Soviet

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25X1A technicians who seemed to know very little about hydrogenation of low grade coal kept urging the German specialists to make studies on hydrogenation of hard coal. [REDACTED] the pilot plant at KHIMGAS, which started operations in the middle of 1948, was the first experimental establishment of this kind in the USSR. [REDACTED] beca25X1A of the following points:

- (a) There were no trained mechanics for this type of work
- (b) The Soviet personnel in charge had previously studied in Germany
- (c) The Soviets had practically no original literature on this subject.

In 1949 Dr Kaufmann showed us a book in Russian which was devoted to hydrogenation. He chuckled as he paged through it, saying that the Soviets had merely put together in a book his own studies previously published in separate articles. They used the same experiments as he, and had reprinted the same tables. In fact, he said, they had even copied his mistakes. (He had found out about these in later, unpublished experiments.)

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6. The KHIMGAS Institute was considerably smaller than GIPKh, [REDACTED] it was continually under guard. At KHIMGAS there were only women, four or five of them on the outside carrying rifles, while those guarding the inside wore pistols under their coats.

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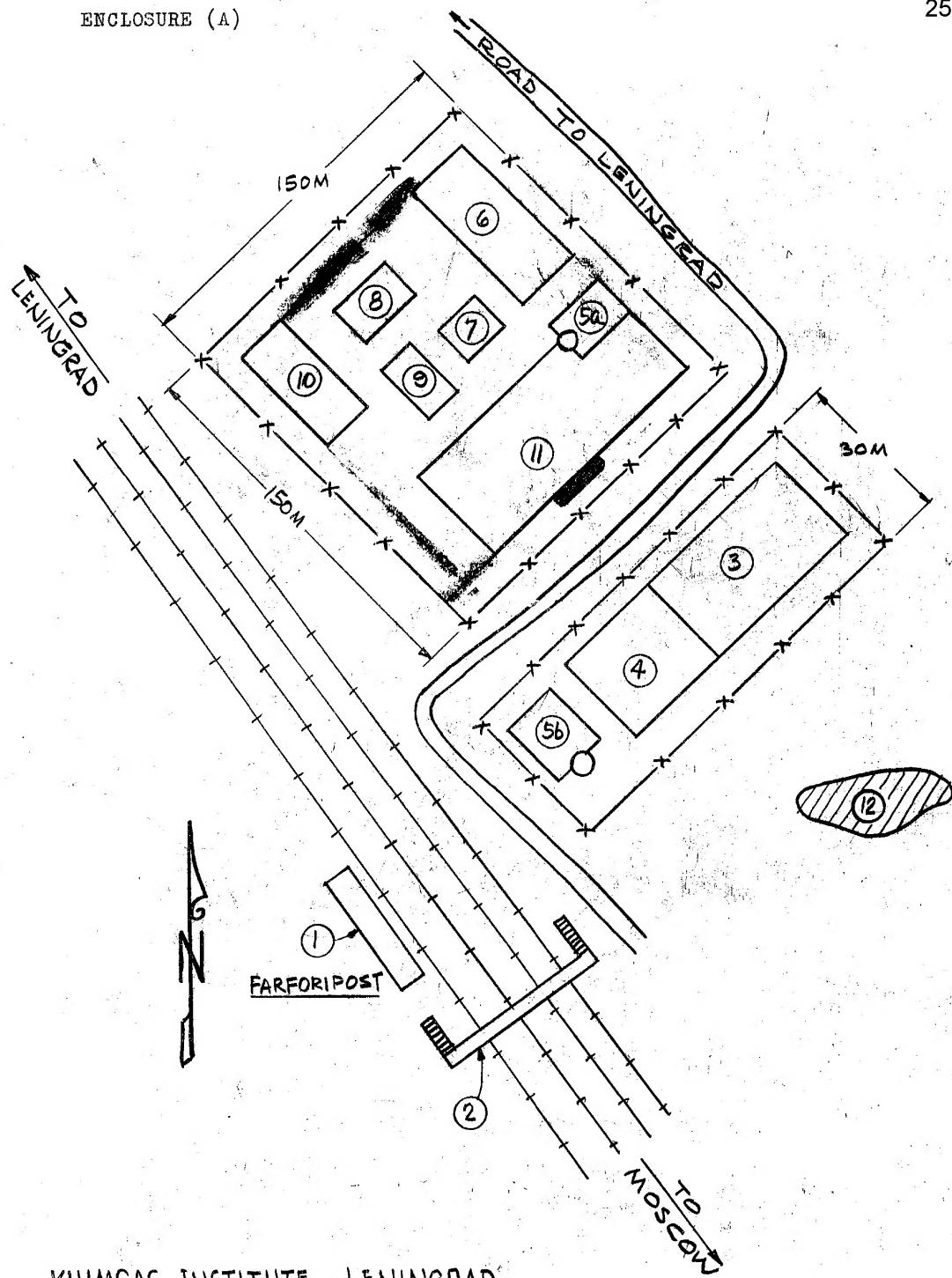
ENCLOSURE (A) Diagram - KHIMGAS Institute - Leningrad

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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KHIMGAS INSTITUTE - LENINGRAD

LEGEND

1. Farforipost station	6, 7, 8, 9 Hydrogenation laboratories and installations
2. Foot bridge across tracks	10. Do not know
3. Engineer drafting and construction office	11. Chemistry laboratory
4. Administration of KHIMGAS	12. Pond
5. a and b Boiler houses	

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